

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1, 3, 13, and 16 have been amended. Independent claims 17, 18, and 22 and related dependent claims stand allowed and claims 2-16 stand objected. Independent claim 1 stands rejected.

Claims 1-22 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

On page 2 of the Office Action, dependent claim 3 was objected to because of informalities. In view of the amendments to dependent claim 3, it is respectfully requested that the objection to dependent claim 3 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,012,115 to Brown ("Brown"). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In view of the amendment to independent claim 1 incorporating claimed features of dependent claims 13 and 16, which include allowable subject matter, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 1 and related dependent claims be allowed. It is respectfully asserted that claims 1-22 are in allowable condition.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

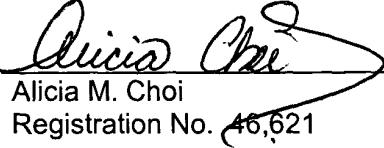
If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this

Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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